

# **Qualitative research methods for analyzing society: Focusing on Japanese culture, education, and social issues**

**A course prepared by Satoshi SHIRAMATSU**

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# National Tsing Hua University

## Course Title: Qualitative research methods for analyzing society: Focusing on Japanese culture, education, and social issues

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### Course Description

The objective of social research is to recognize and comprehend various social phenomena and people's lives by gathering and analyzing data and materials. The focus of this class is on qualitative research, which is not dependent on statistical calculations or numbers, and we will learn various qualitative research and analysis methods. First, this course primarily provides qualitative research methodologies and strategies for analyzing society. The second section examines a case study using qualitative research methods in three areas: culture, education, and social issues. The focus of this course is on culture, which includes comics, cartoons, Otaku/Geek/Nerd culture in Japan. In regards to education, we will talk about classroom management in the 21st century and teachers' narratives. Our consideration of educational issues includes the declining birthrate, regional revitalization, education, and economic revitalization. At the conclusion, students will use their qualitative research knowledge and methodology to create a brief report and give a presentation.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Be interested in and explore society and social phenomena
2. Explain the basic principals of various qualitative survey and analysis methods
3. Take advantage of the benefits of qualitative research in exploring a society's cultural, educational and social issues
4. Discuss and collaborate with diverse individuals using sociological knowledge and perspectives

**Teaching Strategies**

Reading, case study, small group/large group activities, lecture

**Required Text**

No textbook is required. However, reading materials will be assigned.

**Course Requirements**

Your research will involve collecting literature and summarizing your thoughts on the subject or topic. It's crucial to consistently prepare for the next lecture with a deep understanding of qualitative research after each class. Your required study time should be at least 6 hours of short term qualitative research for the final presentation class.

**Course Grading**

Grading for this course will be based on a 100-point system.

Assignment:	Weight of Assignment:	Grading Scale
1. Learning Reflection (individual)	10 points	A 91-100%
2. Discussion in Each Case Study (group)	25 points	B 90-81%
3. Survey design and strategy(individual)	20 points	C 80-71%
4. Research Project (individual)	30 points	D 70-61%
5. Presentation and Discussion (group)	15 points	F 60% and below
Total Points:	100 points	

Course Schedule  
*(schedule is tentative and subject to change!)*

Date	Topic	Assignment/Preparation
	Introduction Course Overview Qualitative Research methods	* Please review the materials before class.
	Qualitative research case study on Japanese popular culture; Comics, Cartoons, Otaku/Geek/Nerd culture in Japan	*Please review the materials before class. *Discuss about popular culture
	Qualitative research case study on Japanese education; Classroom Management, Teachers' Narratives	*Identify an issue
	Qualitative research case study on Japanese social issues; Declining birthrate and Regional Revitalization, Education and Economic Revitalization in Japan	*Identify an issue
	Short-Term Research Project: Preparation	*Decide on a plan *Research first reflection due
	Short-Term Research: Reflection Research: Demonstration	*Research second reflection due *Presentation